Dallas Ex-Mayor Hits JFK Book

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The former Mayor of Dallas yesterday accused William Manchester, author of "The Death of a President," of "a deliberate attempt to distort history."

Earle Cabell now a Democratic Congressman, called a news conference "to set the record straight as an eyewitness" about reparted bitterness, delay and red tape in removal of President John F. Kennedy's body from Parkland hospital in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

The Congressman was in the second car in the Presidential motorcade and arrived at the hospital immediately behind the President's car.

Cabell said he had not yet read the second Look magazine installment which has yet to be published, but was basing his criticisms on reliable reports of what it contains. He added that he had never been interviewed by Manchester.

"There was no real rhubarb over leaving the hospital," Cabell said. "Those delays referred to were criticized only by those who would have superimposed their own will and selfish desires over duly constituted laws enacted for the protection of the people as a whole," he said.

Cabell declined to identify the critics except to say they were members of the Kennedy party.

"There have been implications of a wrestling match, it was not so. I was there." Cabell added. "There was no incident of any physical violence attempts to force the removal of the casket."

The book, and other published accounts, have referred to physical tussling between Kennedy aides and state and local officials over removal of the President's body.

The removal of a body from the premises required a release from the next of kin or other authorized persons.

"When this was explained to Mrs. Kennedy, there was no unpleasantness whatsoever involved, and she very graciously and promptly signed the release," Cabell said.

Justice Theron Ward was also called in to sign a release to comply with the state law prohibiting removal of a body from Texas where death was due to violent causes, Cabell said.

Manchester was reported in New York, but could not be reached for comment.

Cowles Plans to Sue Der Stern Over Series

HAMBURG, Germany, Jan. 14 (AP) — Cowles Communications, Inc., will bring a legal action against the West German magazine Der Stern over publication of William Manchester's "The Death of a President," its editor in chief William Attwood said today.

He announced the decision in a statement after meeting Stern editor Henri Nannen last night to try to persuade him to have certain portions of the German serialization cut. Nannen said after the meeting no cuts would be made.